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Minnesota AgriView

Vol 15-03

February 10, 2015

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Minnesota during December 2014 totaled 784 million pounds, up 2 percent from last December. The average number of milk cows during December, at 460,000 head, was unchanged from both last month and a year ago. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,705 pounds, up 40 pounds from December 2013. This is the highest December milk per cow for Minnesota on record.

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 16.2 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from December 2013. November revised production at 15.5 billion pounds, was up 3.5 percent from November 2013. The November revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,886 pounds for December, 35 pounds above December 2013. This is the highest production per cow for the month of December since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States for December, was 8.61 million head, 107,000 head more than December 2013, and 16,000 head more than November 2014.

Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 50.9 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from the October - December quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.28 million head, 16,000 head more than the July - September quarter, and 83,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Production: Selected States, December 2013 and 2014

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	Change from 2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	191	194	1,985	2,040	379	396	+4.5
California	1,781	1,780	1,950	1,950	3,473	3,471	-0.1
Colorado	140	145	2,055	2,115	288	307	+6.6
Florida	123	124	1,600	1,650	197	205	+4.1
Idaho	565	579	1,960	1,980	1,107	1,146	+3.5
Illinois	96	94	1,630	1,650	156	155	-0.6
Indiana	178	180	1,820	1,865	324	336	+3.7
Iowa	206	209	1,870	1,935	385	404	+4.9
Kansas	136	143	1,845	1,870	251	267	+6.4
Michigan	380	402	2,020	2,060	768	828	+7.8
Minnesota.....	460	460	1,665	1,705	766	784	+2.3
New Mexico	323	323	2,050	2,060	662	665	+0.5
New York	613	615	1,820	1,890	1,116	1,162	+4.1
Ohio	267	268	1,680	1,710	449	458	+2.0
Oregon	124	125	1,675	1,655	208	207	-0.5
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,675	1,730	888	917	+3.3
South Dakota.....	95	98	1,815	1,870	172	183	+6.4
Texas	440	470	1,820	1,870	801	879	+9.7
Utah	94	96	1,820	1,940	171	186	+8.8
Vermont	132	132	1,650	1,705	218	225	+3.2
Virginia	94	93	1,600	1,630	150	152	+1.3
Washington	266	277	1,955	1,970	520	546	+5.0
Wisconsin	1,270	1,274	1,805	1,855	2,292	2,363	+3.1
23-State Total.....	8,504	8,611	1,851	1,886	15,741	16,242	+3.2

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves

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CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Minnesota for all feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head totaled 137,000 head on January 1, 2015. This is up 2,000 head from last month and up 7,000 head from last year.

Placements during December totaled 16,000 head, up 7 percent from last month and down 20 percent from last year. **Marketings** for December were 13,000 head, up 18 percent from both last month and last year. **Other disappearance** totaled 1,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on January 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent above January 1, 2014. The inventory included 6.94 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.67 million head, down 2 percent from 2014.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.54 million, 8 percent below 2013. Net placements were 1.47 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 435,000, 600-699 pounds were 375,000, 700-799 pounds were 339,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 395,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.66 million, 5 percent below 2013. **Other disappearance** totaled 72,000 during December, 6 percent below 2013.

Cattle on Feed, Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance by Month, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – Selected States and United States: 2014-2015 1

State	Cattle on Feed January 1			Placements during December			Marketings during December			December Disappearance other than Slaughter ²		
	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2013	2014	'14 as % of '13	2013	2014	'14 as % of '13	2013	2014	'14 as % of '13
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	274	249	91	28	26	93	28	26	93	1	3	300
California	510	425	83	59	51	86	52	54	104	2	7	350
Colorado	940	920	98	150	130	87	150	135	90	10	5	50
Idaho	220	230	105	32	40	125	36	34	94	1	1	100
Iowa	620	640	103	96	101	105	84	80	95	2	1	50
Kansas	2,010	2,050	102	360	330	92	385	370	96	15	10	67
Minnesota	130	137	105	20	16	80	11	13	118	1	1	100
Nebraska	2,400	2,490	104	405	395	98	420	440	105	15	15	100
Oklahoma	260	255	98	43	36	84	45	39	87	3	2	67
South Dakota ..	250	245	98	43	32	74	30	30	100	3	2	67
Texas	2,440	2,500	102	370	325	88	420	365	87	20	20	100
Washington	201	209	104	34	28	82	37	42	114	3	3	100
Other States	335	340	101	39	34	87	38	27	71	1	2	200
United States ...	10,590	10,690	101	1,679	1,544	92	1,736	1,655	95	77	72	94

1 Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. 2 Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Cattle on Feed, Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – Selected States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves			Cows & Bulls		
	January 1, 2014	October 1, 2014	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2014	October 1, 2014	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2014	October 1, 2014	January 1, 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	268	249	246	6	3	3	0	0	0
California	470	365	395	40	50	30	0	0	0
Colorado	605	530	585	330	305	320	5	5	15
Idaho	125	112	137	91	88	92	4	5	1
Iowa	425	430	490	195	130	150	0	0	0
Kansas	1,060	1,050	1,100	945	955	945	5	5	5
Minnesota	107	96	108	22	17	28	1	1	1
Nebraska	1,545	1,450	1,615	820	765	840	35	25	35
Oklahoma	170	165	170	90	80	85	0	0	0
South Dakota ..	135	104	139	90	78	82	25	8	24
Texas	1,510	1,590	1,600	929	879	899	1	1	1
Washington ...	120	119	120	77	92	87	4	1	2
Other States ..	240	200	230	95	105	110	0	0	0
United States .	6,780	6,460	6,935	3,730	3,547	3,671	80	51	84

MONTHLY PRICES

The December 2014 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Minnesota was \$3.73 per bushel according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Agricultural Prices* report. This was up \$0.22 from the November price, but \$0.78 lower than December 2013.

The December 2014 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at \$10.10 per bushel, was up \$0.15 from the November price, but \$2.60 lower than the December 2013 price.

The December **oat** price was \$2.89 per bushel, down \$0.11 from November, and \$0.42 below December 2013.

All hay prices in Minnesota averaged \$136.00 per ton in December, up \$6.00 from the November price, but \$45.00 per ton less than December 2013. **Alfalfa hay** prices fell \$45.00 per ton from one year ago, to \$160.00 and **other hay** prices were \$42.00 per ton lower than last year, at \$94.00.

The December average price was \$20.60 per cwt for **milk**, down \$3.80 from November, and \$1.40 per cwt below one year ago. Prices for replacement **milk cows** averaged \$1,870 in January.

Special Note: Beginning January 2015, NASS will publish full-month price data only. In addition, the method for computing annual indexes is revised. For details, see: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Prices/update2015.pdf.

Prices Received by Farmers - Minnesota and United States

	MINNESOTA			UNITED STATES		
	December 2013	November 2014	December 2014	December 2013	November 2014	December 2014
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Barley, allbu	(D)	5.38	5.45	6.11	5.12	5.15
Beans, dry ediblecwt	(D)	(S)	(D)	39.80	30.50	34.00
Cornbu	4.51	3.51	3.73	4.41	3.58	3.78
Hay, all baledton	181.00	130.00	136.00	163.00	164.00	159.00
Alfalfaton	205.00	160.00	160.00	186.00	184.00	183.00
Otherton	136.00	100.00	94.00	133.00	124.00	117.00
Oatsbu	3.31	3.00	2.89	3.59	2.96	3.20
Potatoescwt	9.10	(D)	(D)	9.02	7.99	8.64
Spring Wheatbu	6.54	5.39	5.64	6.55	5.74	5.78
Soybeansbu	12.70	9.95	10.10	13.00	10.20	10.30
Sunflowers, allcwt	(D)	(D)	(D)	18.80	19.80	19.60
Milk, allcwt	22.00	24.40	20.60	22.00	23.00	20.40
Milk Cows ¹head	1,410	(NA)	1,870	1,440	(NA)	1,990

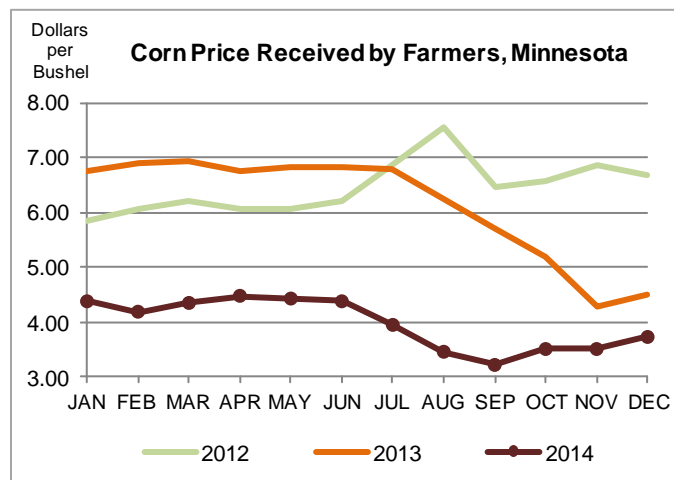
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (S) Insufficient number of reports to establish an estimate.

(NA) Not available. ¹Prices are for January 1, 2014, and January 1, 2015. Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only.

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers - United States

	December 2013	November 2014	December 2014
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Calvescwt	197.00	305.00	303.00
Cattle, all beefcwt	130.00	167.00	164.00
Cows ¹cwt	83.40	115.00	115.00
Steers & Heiferscwt	132.00	169.00	166.00
Hogs, allcwt	61.50	66.70	64.30
Barrows & Giltscwt	61.30	66.40	64.20
Sowscwt	70.10	74.20	65.80
Eggs (market)doz	1.21	1.37	1.66

¹Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.



VEGETABLES ANNUAL SUMMARY

Minnesota dropped to fourth place in the nation for total production, but remained in third place for value of production for the major processing vegetables in 2014. It also remained in second place for acres harvested. California is again the number one state in all three categories and accounted for 74 percent of the total production of these vegetables.

Minnesota maintained its first place standing for **processing sweet corn** in 2014, producing 749,440 tons, 29 percent of the nation's total. Harvested acres decreased by 9,300 to 109,400 acres, the lowest harvested acreage since 1989. Yields rose, however, up 2 percent to 6.85 tons per acre. U.S. processing sweet corn production was up less than 1 percent to 2.57 million tons.

Green pea production in Minnesota in 2014 totaled 78,150 tons, down 11 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage rose to 64,000, but yields were down 15 percent to 1.22 tons per acre. Despite the decrease in production, Minnesota remained the second largest green pea processing state in the nation. Processing pea production in the U.S. rose 2 percent to 362,860 tons.

Processing Vegetables: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value – Minnesota and United States: 2013-2014

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per acre		Production		Value			
									Per ton		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
MINNESOTA												
Green Peas	67,700	68,600	60,800	64,000	1.44	1.22	87,630	78,150	640.00	567.00	56,111	44,273
Sweet corn	125,200	116,600	118,700	109,400	6.74	6.85	799,720	749,440	150.00	113.00	120,108	84,805
UNITED STATES												
Green Peas	187,880	195,700	178,300	187,600	2.00	1.93	356,050	362,860	427.00	367.00	151,928	133,261
Sweet corn	328,800	325,180	314,950	312,280	8.10	8.22	2,551,830	2,567,820	140.00	113.00	357,804	289,573

APPLES

Minnesota apple production for 2014 is estimated at 19.4 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2013. Despite pockets of localized frost and hail damage in early spring, yield was up 1 percent to 8,820 pounds per acre in 2014. Weighted average price received for all categories was down 2.9 cents per pound from 83.5 cents in 2013, to 80.6 cents in 2014. Total bearing acres were relatively unchanged year-to-year, at 2,200 acres in 2014.

Commercial Apple Bearing Acreage, Yield, and Production – Selected States and United States: 2013-2014

State	Bearing Acreage		Yield per Acre ¹		Total Production		Utilized Production		Price per Pound		Value of Utilized Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	Acres	Acres	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Dollars	Dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Illinois	1,800	1,800	8,890	11,400	16.0	20.6	15.0	19.8	0.528	0.684	7,913	13,542
Iowa	950	800	7,680	4,000	7.3	3.2	5.8	2.5	0.697	0.774	4,040	1,935
Michigan	36,500	36,500	34,500	27,400	1,260.0	1,000.0	1,250.0	1,000.0	0.204	0.228	254,953	227,720
Minnesota	2,200	2,200	8,740	8,820	19.2	19.4	14.1	16.3	0.835	0.806	11,801	13,137
Missouri	1,200	1,200	14,100	17,700	16.9	21.2	15.0	20.1	0.368	0.340	5,515	6,843
Wisconsin	3,100	3,100	13,500	13,100	41.7	40.7	37.9	37.7	0.509	0.641	19,274	24,172
United States	328,620	327,380	31,600	34,400	10,399.1	11,251.2	10,302.9	11,198.3	0.302	0.265	3,113,126	2,963,981

¹ Yield is based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market conditions.